

Limits on media ownership are more important than ever

Re: Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast mediaownership rules

I believe that the current rules serve the public interest. A competitive and diverse media is essential to maintaining real freedom of expression. The major companies dominating the market can and will ignore local issues and limit the variety of viewpoints given a forum. Informed debate is indispensable to democracy. There may be more sources of media than ever before, but the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. The public interest will be better served by retaining the media ownership rules in effect

The official hearing in Richmond, Virginia is insufficient to review the opinions of a broad range of public opinion. I urge the FCC to hold hearings elsewhere in the nation to encourage the widest possible participation of the public, those who will be most affected by these decisions. It is important for the FCC to consider the points of view of those with social and civic interests, as well as those with financial interests in this issue.

Changes in these rules will have serious impacts on our country; it is important for the Commission to take time to review these issues thoroughly and to allow all of the American people to have input into the process. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dorothea Rastegar